(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

Contraceptive pill for men

535.SHRI RAJU PARMAR :Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that scientists all over the world have developed a contraceptive pill for men which is said to be 100 per cent effective and free from unpleasant side effects; and

(b) if so, whether the Indian scientists have also developed a similar pill and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government is aware about the development of the male contraceptive pill developed in different parts of the world, and which is not under clinical testing. However, the male pill is still in research stages and is not yet available.

(b) Indian scientists have not yet developed similar pills. Efforts are going on to develop male contraceptive by Indian scientists.

Government Hospitals

536. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of big and small Government hospitals functioning the country;

(b) the number of persons per hospital provided with medical facility in the country and the average thereof in Uttaranchal; and

(c) the details of the steps likely to be taken to extend the availability of medical facilities during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per information available

with Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, as on 1-1-2001, 15622 allopathic hospitals are functioning in the country and population served per hospital in the country is 65742. However, specific information in respect of Uttaranchal is not available.

Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Governments to take necessary steps to provide medical facilities to its people. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is providing medical facilities to the people through various National Health and Family Welfare Programmes. Under "Pradhanmantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana", Government has decided, in principle, to set up six superspeciahty hospitals on the pattern of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in the States of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh and Uttaranchal. In addition, the Government has also decided, in principle, to upgrade one existing medical institution in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Persistence of Polio cases

537. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether persistence of polio cases in India inspite of 'Pulse Polio Programme' is posing a problem to the rest of the world;

(b) if so, the analysis of the causes; and

(c) the remedial action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2002, there have been four polio cases in other countries and the sources have been detected to be from India. The spread to the other countries has been mainly due to migration of people from endemic areas within India to other countries.

(c) The polio eradication programme has been reviewed by India Experts Advisory Group (IEAG) and has recommended for upscaling Pulse Polio Programme during 2004-2006. As per the recommendation